Wellington Park Management Trust

Annual Report | *2025 – 2026*







Wellington Park
Management Trust

www.wellingtonpark.org.au

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 75 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993,* I am pleased to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Wellington Park Management Trust for the year ending 30 June 2026.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993.*

Yours sincerely



Dr Christine Mucha
Chairperson

Wellington Park
Management Trust

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Vision

For Wellington Park to be a special place, accessible and enjoyed by all for its prominent landscape, natural and cultural diversity, and community value.

Our Mission

To preserve the natural, cultural, recreational, tourism and drinking water qualities of Wellington Park for their own value and for the safe enjoyment of all people.

This will be achieved through outstanding management, sympathetic development and a co-operative relationship with our communities.

Our Values

- *Working collaboratively with Park Management Agencies*
- *Integrity, professionalism and quality*
- *Commitment, flexibility and innovation*
- *Cooperation and teamwork*
- *Effective communication*
- *Environmentally sustainable practices*
- *Valuing community participation*



Trestle Mountain | Adrian Bol

Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of the land within Wellington Park, we acknowledge Palawa as the traditional and ongoing custodians of this land.

We acknowledge the determination and resilience of Palawa, who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and connection to country. Although the Muwinina people, whose land included that of Wellington Park, did not survive invasion, we honour their legacy in our efforts to look after their mother mountain, Kunanyi.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Palawa today. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present.

Wellington Park



Wellington Park, at 18,011 hectares, is one of Tasmania's largest areas of reserved land outside of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Park has unique natural and cultural qualities, and includes the icons of Kunanyi / Mount Wellington, forming the backdrop to Tasmania's capital city Hobart, and Sleeping Beauty (Collins Bonnet and Trestle Mountain), visible from the Huon Valley.

Managing Wellington Park is challenging. It is immensely popular with locals and visitors, being Tasmania's most- visited natural attraction. The Park contains diverse ecosystems, Aboriginal and heritage values, drinking water catchments and proximity to rural and urban areas.

Wellington Park was proclaimed under purpose-made legislation, the *Wellington Park Act 1993,* due to internal complexities arising from fourteen land parcels of different tenure and ownership, and the desire to provide for a co-operative management approach among the various land owners and land managers.

'Whole of Park' management continues to be challenging, owing to the capacity of land owner agencies to fund increasing capital and maintenance costs required to provide for growing visitor numbers.

The Trust extends its appreciation for the contribution made during the term of their appointments by departing members Cr John Kelly (City of Hobart) and Rita Warrener (Tourism Tasmania), and deputy members Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds (City of Hobart), Cr Ryan Posselt (City of Hobart) and Edwina Morris (Tourism Tasmania).

Administration of Wellington Park

Wellington Park Management Trust

The Wellington Park Management Trust is the statutory management authority for the Park. Administration of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* (the Act) is assigned to the Minister for Parks. The Dept of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) is responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Act.

Membership of the Trust is specified in the Act.

- City of Hobart (two nominees)
- Glenorchy City Council
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- Parks and Wildlife Service
- TasWater
- Tourism Tasmania

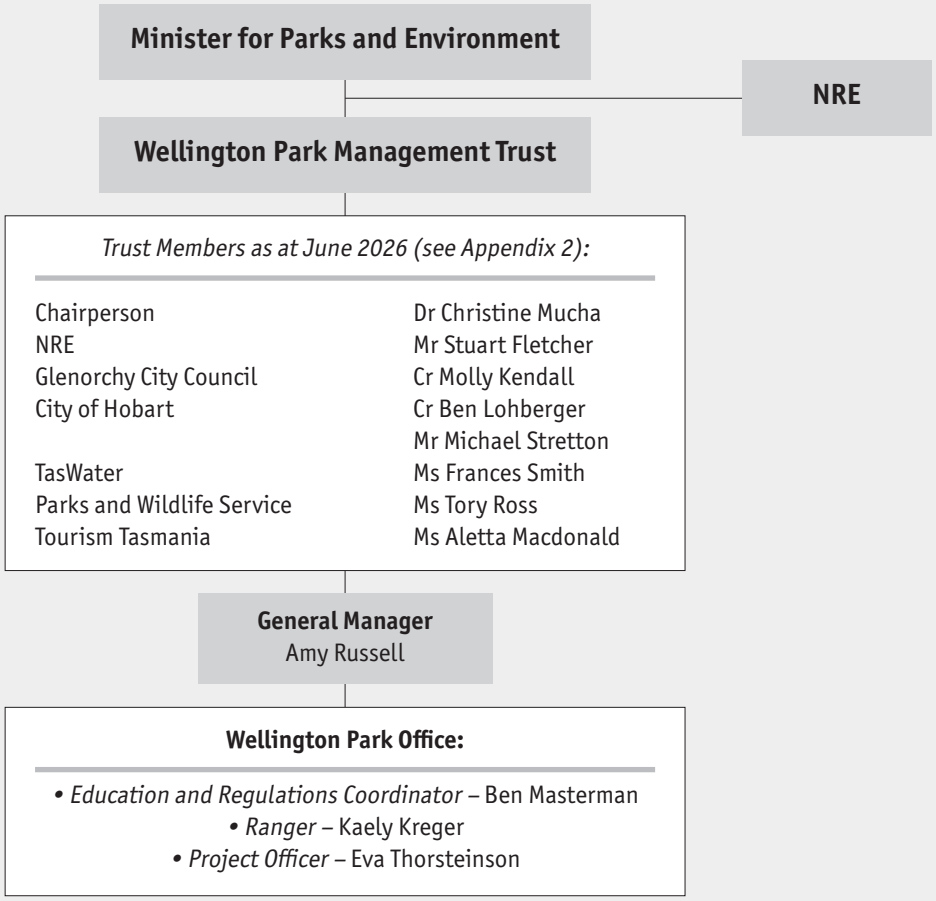
The Trust is tasked with providing a co-operative and effective management and planning structure for this unique and diverse peri-urban reserve.

The Chair of the Trust is an independent Ministerial appointment. The nominees and deputy nominees of the Trust member agencies specified in the Act are also appointed by the Minister.

The functions and powers of the Trust are set down in section 11 of the Act. The Trust held five meetings in 2025-26.

During 2025-26, the Trust was supported by the Wellington Park Office comprising four full-time staff.

Organisational Structure



Park Management Agencies

The City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council, and the Parks and Wildlife Service are responsible for on-ground works within their respective areas in the Park, as shown in Appendix 1.

TasWater has a statutory responsibility for drinking water supply and, whilst continuing to maintain infrastructure within the Park, contributes significantly as a land manager to ensure the sustainability of the drinking water catchments in the Park.

Under the Act, *"it is the duty of all owners or occupiers of land in Wellington Park to exercise their functions and powers and to use and manage the land in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which it is set aside and with any management plan."*

Via permits issued under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019,* the Trust ensures that all works undertaken within the Park are consistent with the purposes for which the Park is set aside.

Volunteer Contributions

The Trust recognises the enormous amount of goodwill, energy and resources that are contributed by both the community and agencies to ensure that the Park is protected and maintained as a special place for everyone.

There are many private individuals and community groups that directly contribute to the ongoing planning and management of the Park. The Wellington Park Office has benefited immensely from invaluable voluntary input from historians, scientists, and enthusiastic Park users within the broader Wellington Park community. This generous network of Park advocates amplify the limited resources of the Trust and are an ever-present reminder of the depth of community connection to Wellington Park.

Trust Representation on other Committees

The Trust is represented on the following committees:

- *Hobart and Southern Fire Management Area Committee*
- *Mountain Water Supply Scheme Heritage Advisory Group*
- *Halls Saddle Multipurpose Precinct Project Control Group*

Resourcing the Trust

The Trust is entirely reliant on financial contributions from State and Local Government and TasWater. The Trust received $549,047 in contributions for 2025-26, with this funding used for Trust administration, staff and overheads.

Agency	*2025–26 Contribution*
State Treasury Allocation via NRE	$390,000
City of Hobart	$40,632*
Glenorchy City Council	$41,401
TasWater	$77,014

* The City of Hobart supports the Wellington Park Office through the provision of free office accommodation and IT support. Although not reflected in the financial statements, this contribution represents in-kind support in the order of $40,000.

Separate to the funding of the Trust, Park operations and maintenance activities are undertaken by the City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council and, on behalf of the Crown, the Parks and Wildlife Service. Operational and maintenance responsibilities are divided and allocated to each agency via the designation of Park Management Areas in the statutory Wellington Park Management Plan.

Combined operational and capital expenditure in Wellington Park by the City of Hobart is in the order of $4.9 million per annum, and $0.86 million per annum by Glenorchy City Council.

A small amount of Trust income is generated from permit fees and fines for infringements of the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*. Commercial filming approvals generate the largest proportion of this type of income. In 2025-26, the Trust also received $300,000 from the Department of Treasury and Finance's Structured Infrastructure Investment Review Process (allocated in the 2024-25 State Budget) for the preparation of a Wellington Park Business Case.

Source	*2025–26 Income*	*2024–25 Income*
Permits, licences and approvals	$10,140	$11,414
Fines	$247	$1,426
Donation	-	$13,619
Grant - SIIRP	$300,000	-

Strategic Framework

Wellington Park Act 1993

The Act addresses the complexities of multiple land tenures, allows for the establishment and constitution of the Trust, and for the preparation of a statutory management plan for the Park.

During 2025-26, the Act was administered by the Minister for Parks the Hon Nick Duigan.

Wellington Park Regulations 2019

The Act provides for the making of regulations for the purposes of the Act and prescribes the provisions that the regulations may and may not include. The regulations are remade every 10 years. The current *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* came into force on 27 March 2019.

At its meeting on April 2026, the Trust resolved to request an amendment to the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* to provide for Park entry fees should this be recommended in the future and noting the lead time required for such an amendment to occur.

Wellington Park Management Plan

A key role of the Trust is the preparation and implementation of a Management Plan for the Park. The current Plan was released in 2013 and amended in 2015. The Plan is a statutory document that also functions as the planning scheme for land within Wellington Park.

The Trust commenced a statutory review of the Management Plan in November 2022. The announcement of the State Government Our Mountain's Future review in May 2024 and subsequent extension beyond the original 12-month timeframe meant that the Management Plan review had to be paused to avoid confusion between the two reviews.

In April 2026, the Trust resolved to recommence the statutory review of the Wellington Park Management Plan.

***Kunanyi / Mount Wellington** has a 4.8/5 rating from 9,019 Google reviews, and a 4.7/5 rating from 7,905 TripAdvisor reviews, indicating high levels of visitor satisfaction.*



The Organ Pipes Track in snow | Ben Masterman

The Year in Review

The Wellington Park Business Case

Preparation of a Wellington Park Business Case was proposed by the Trust in December 2023 in recognition of ongoing resource and administrative challenges affecting the sustainability of Wellington Park, amplified by a continuous increase in visitor numbers.

With funding approved through the Tasmanian Structured Infrastructure Investment Review Process (SIIRP), the Trust engaged a consortium of consultants to develop a Business Case framework including:

- Targeted stakeholder consultation
- Demand forecasting and user-pays price sensitivity analyses
- Economic modelling
- A costed Master Plan for the Pinnacle Rd corridor from Halls Saddle to The Pinnacle

Drawing on Pinnacle Observation Shelter counter data, Pinnacle Road traffic data, and Tasmanian Visitor Survey figures, Wellington Park visitor numbers for 2024-25 were estimated to be 583,000, more than the combined total of Cradle Mountain and Freycinet National Parks. Of this number, 63% were interstate visitors, 24% were Tasmanian resident visitors and the remaining 13% were international visitors.

The focus of the Business Case was identifying and modelling an appropriate user-pays model that would enable resourcing of sustainable Park management and investment in visitor safety and amenities consistent with the purpose for which Wellington Park was set aside as a reserve.

The Business Case framework proposes a per-vehicle entry fee for Pinnacle Rd users and a per-client fee for commercial operators. No fees are proposed for visitors walking, running or riding into the Park. Revenue raised would be invested back into Wellington Park. Modelling and demand forecasting indicates that 87% of revenue would be generated from interstate and international visitors.

The Trust received the consultants' final report in March 2026. These reports were also provided to the executives of the Our Mountain's Future review and the Halls Saddle Multipurpose Precinct Development project should the reports add value to these processes. The Trust is now preparing a Business Case recommendation to support consultation before presenting the Business Case to the funding body and Government. The Trust is also awaiting the outputs of the Our Mountain's Future review to assess if there are additional matters that the Trust may need to consider in the recommendation.

Dark Sky Park application

The Trust's Dark Sky Park application has been through its first review by a regional Dark Sky International representative, resulting in recommendations for further refinement of the application prior to submission for formal assessment.

The Wellington Park application has generated interest owing to the demonstrated significance of dark skies above Kunanyi to Palawa; emerging research into fluorescence in Tasmanian fauna, flora and fungi and potential ecological implications; and, the educational value of Kunanyi / Mount Wellington in enabling the public to directly compare dark sky quality over urban areas to the east of the mountain summit with the dark sky stretching out to the south and west of the summit, towards the uninhabited Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

In October 2025, the Trust installed a permanent sky quality data logger on Collins Bonnet to continuously record sky quality at 5 min intervals. This data is then filtered to isolate readings that are not affected by the sun, moon, cloud cover or galactic core, which reduces a very large data set to a relatively small number of eligible dark sky quality readings. Over the recording period, the Collins Cap site has maintained an average sky quality reading of 21.66. The darkest possible reading that can be reliably measured on Earth is considered to be 22, and Dark Sky Parks must exceed 21.2 to be eligible for accreditation. Alongside monitoring being undertaken at sites across the Park using a handheld sky quality meter, Wellington Park is on track to meet eligibility criteria.

***Heavy rain filled the Disappearing Tarn** in late May/early June, attracting an average of 300 walkers each day of the fill event.*

Indigenous Ranger Program expansion – Kunanyi Rangers

The Trust welcomes the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's appointment of a new team of Pakana Rangers, including two dedicated Kunanyi Ranger positions. The new appointments are made possible by a federal Indigenous Ranger Program Extension grant. The application was supported by the Trust to provide for operational access to Wellington Park and contribute in-kind support to the Pakana Ranger program in the Park.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre has been issued with a standing permit for the Pakana Ranger program to provide for access and conditional operation in Wellington Park. Already, Pakana Rangers have joined with Rangers from the Trust and the PWS to undertake track maintenance works on the Wellington Falls to Montagu Link and the Old Montagu Fire Trail in the PWS-managed section of Wellington Park.

The Trust understands that the Rangers' priorities are in providing opportunities for Palawa community members to spend time in the Park to revive cultural connection and the Trust stands ready to support these activities.

Plans are afoot to organise further track works accompanied by overnight camping to enable more work to be done in remote areas of Wellington Park, whilst also providing opportunities to spend time on Country under Kunanyi's dark sky.

The Trust also welcomes the Palawa community as a new neighbour of Wellington Park following a private landholder's decision to hand their 5 ha block on the Wellington Park boundary at Myrtle Forest back to the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania.

South Wellington – Zig Zag Track link

The Trust has undertaken work to formalise a link between the Zig Zag Track and South Wellington Track to protect sensitive alpine vegetation from trampling

Aerial imagery showed significant braiding and erosion between the Zig Zag and South Wellington Tracks near The Pinnacle caused by people walking off formal tracks. Off-track trampling kills native plants and increases vulnerability to erosion, soil loss and weed invasion. The proliferation of informal shortcuts has created a large disturbance footprint across sensitive alpine vegetation in this area, and was encroaching on a significant geoconservation feature and fauna habitat.

In response, Trust Rangers Ben and Kaely marked a track linking Zig Zag Track and South Wellington Track in January 2026. Signage was installed at each end of the link track and marker posts were placed along the preferred alignment. The new link has also created a 1km loop from the Pinnacle carpark, as well as creating a handy shortcut (saving about 400 m) for walkers and runners doing the Ice House - Zig Zag track loop.

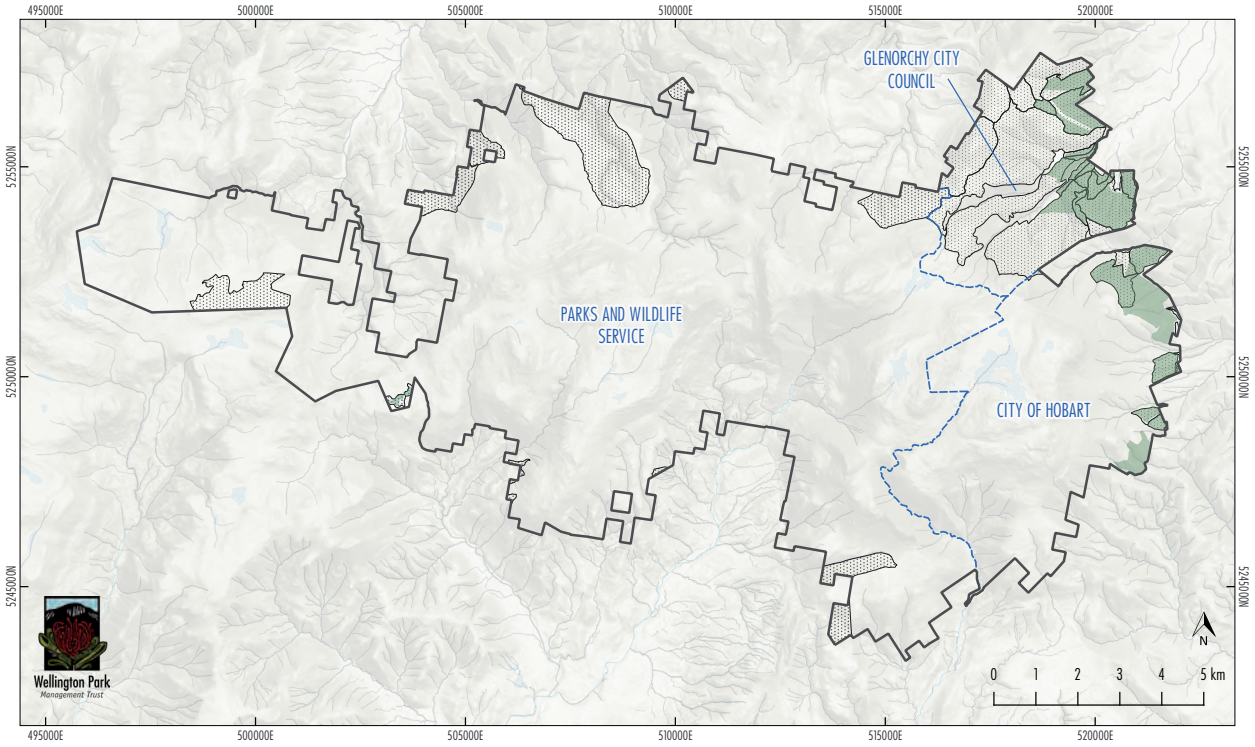
Vegetation Rehabilitation Area signs have been installed to discourage further trampling along informal shortcuts and routes to enable alpine vegetation and fragile soil to recover, noting that this will take decades.

Five months on, Strava and AllTrails activity heatmaps show that marking this route has channelled people along the marked alignment. However, these heatmaps show that people are continuing to walk off or near marked tracks, so further action may be required to care for this area. As The Pinnacle continues to experience high visitor numbers, the Trust will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this intervention.

Signage for this activity was funded by a generous donation from Find Your Feet.



***The Zig Zag Track** is the most popular track in Wellington Park, recording 116,854 users in 25-26 (an average of 320 users per day), down from 121,202 (332 per day) in 24-25.*



Wellington Park Fire and Fuel Management Units

Strategic Bushfire Risk Management Plans

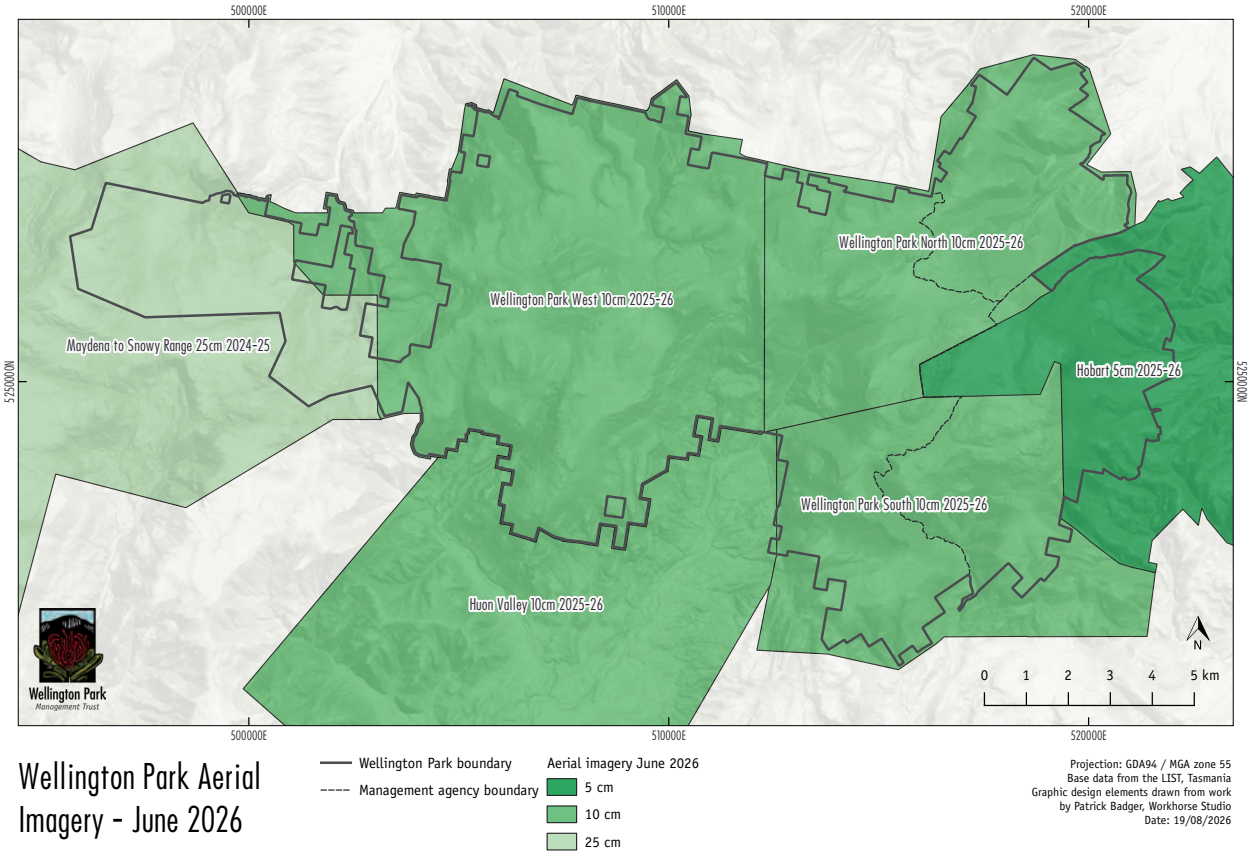
The Trust has continued to support the preparation of a mosaic of three Strategic Bushfire Risk Management Plans (SBRMP) covering the whole of the Wellington Range, including Wellington Park, in place of the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy. The Plans are internal TFS documents within the directorate of Community Fire Safety, and guide bushfire risk management activity undertaken by Park Management Agencies.

The first of these plans, SBRMP – Hobart/Glenorchy, has been executed. The remaining SBRMPs for Wellington Range North and Wellington Range South have been issued to agencies for final review and are expected to be signed by the end of June 2026. This work has been led by the Tasmanian Fire Service Bushfire Risk Unit in collaboration with the Trust, the City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council and the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

The development of the Plans has included audit and revision of the fire trail and fire break network, and updating and expanding the coverage of burn units suitable for fuel reduction burns.

The SBRMPs have been developed with *'source of bushfire risk to priority Human Settlement Areas identified in the Hobart and Southern Bushfire Risk Management Plans'* as the lead criterion. As part of the Wellington Park Management Plan review, the Trust will also incorporate appropriate consideration of natural and cultural values for bushfire risk mitigation activities in Wellington Park. These will inform Wellington Park burn permit assessments.

As a direct outcome of the planning process, a significant new 280ha burn unit in the Humphreys Rivulet catchment in Wellington Park was earmarked for a fuel reduction burn in Autumn 2026. Modelling has shown that fuel management in this burn unit provides bushfire risk mitigation to 20,000 ha of Human Settlement Area. Unfortunately, appropriate conditions did not present during the season and the burn has been held over.



Wellington Park Aerial Imagery - June 2026

Improved Vegetation Mapping

Through the Strategic Bushfire Risk Management Planning process, the Trust identified the accuracy and quality of aerial imagery of Wellington Park as a limiting factor affecting bushfire risk management planning. High resolution imagery verified with field observations is required to generate accurate TASVEG mapping. In turn, TASVEG maps are used as input data into bushfire risk modelling and the identification of vegetation types suitable for fuel reduction burns.

In mid-2025, the Trust evaluated the reliability of TASVEG and the resolution of publicly available aerial imagery across Wellington Park. The mapping was of generally low reliability with two-thirds of the mapping pre-dating 2005 and appearing to have been mapped at broad scales from comparatively low-resolution imagery. A patchwork of images covered the Park, dating from 2010 onwards and ranging from 5-50 cm in resolution. Beyond the Hobart and Glenorchy local government areas, imagery was insufficient to support meaningful improvements to TASVEG.

The Trust approached the NRE Tasmanian Imagery Program (TIP) regarding image capture plans and provided part-funding to capture new imagery at a higher resolution. As a result, 90% of the Park is now covered at ≤10cm resolution, a significant improvement on the 28% coverage before the new image capture.

In consultation with NRE's TASVEG program, the Trust is revising TASVEG maps within Wellington Park. This will improve the accuracy and reliability of bushfire risk models for Wellington Park and southern Tasmania. As an added benefit, this work will also improve the Trust's knowledge of the Park's natural values for incorporation into the revised Management Plan.

Already, the Trust has identified several highly fire-sensitive threatened communities previously unmapped in TASVEG, and either not recorded or recorded without location information in the current Wellington Park Management Plan and the former Fire Management Strategy. Inaccuracies in current TASVEG mapping, particularly in the assignment of Wet Forest classification to dry forest communities and vice versa, are also being corrected, noting that this categorisation has a significant impact on modelled bushfire behaviour, mitigation planning and bushfire response.

The Trust was supported by a grant of $20,200 from the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Grant Program for the review of the Wellington Park Fire Management Strategy.







New trailhead signage

New trailhead signage has been installed during 2025-26 at several Park entrances to improve information available to trail users with funding donated by Hobart retailer Find Your Feet. Trailheads at Mountain River Trail, Myrtle Forest Track, Cathedral Rock Track and the N.R. Pierce Reserve boundary have all been enhanced with new, informative map and information panels.

Tasmanian Geoconservation site nomination

In early 2026, the Trust received information from forest ecologist Yoav Bar-Ness of a potential site of geoconservation significance on Hobart Rivulet within Wellington Park. Follow-up inspection by Trust staff, Bar-Ness and UTAS geologist Dr Hannah Moore further documented the site as an unusual tufa limestone formation not previously seen in Wellington Park.

The site is located above Strickland Falls, and is significant as it demonstrates an unusual geological process occurring in plain sight, which also adds an educational dimension to the value of the site. Water is seeping through calcium rich mudstone and slowly depositing thin layers of calcite as it drips into the open air, forming delicate, tufa-like speleothem deposits.

Features like this are typically hidden underground in limestone caves, making its occurrence in surface mudstone both uncommon and particularly interesting. The process appears to be highly localised, likely due to the calcareous nature of the rock and the consistently damp, sheltered conditions created by a rock overhang—an ideal setting for slow mineral deposition over time.

The Trust has nominated the site for consideration for the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database, where it will be formally assessed in November 2026.

Mountain Invasion Research Network

In May 2026, the Trust initiated a presentation by Dr Agustina Barros, Co-Chair of the international Mountain Invasion Research Network, to City of Hobart staff responsible for managing fire, biodiversity and recreational trails. The presentation focused on the outcomes of research into the effect of recreational trails on native and exotic plant diversity in Wellington Park. The Trust had issued a scientific research permit to Dr Barros and collaborators from UTAS, including the late Jamie Kirkpatrick, in 2023.

Noting that introduced species threaten the integrity, diversity and function of ecosystems, the research team used a survey protocol developed to investigate and monitor the effect of humans and climate change on plant diversity on mountains globally.

Dr Barros reported that exotic species have the potential to grow on the summit of Kunanyi / Mount Wellington, particularly where disturbance has reduced native vegetation cover, but that exotic species are more common at lower elevations, closer to trail heads, and closer to the edge of trails.

Research demonstrated that the relatively intact ecosystems of Wellington Park resist biological invasion. The people who care for Wellington Park also support the capacity of these ecosystems to resist invasion, by proactively searching for and removing weeds as they establish and before they seed.

This work provides important baseline information about native and exotic plant diversity within Wellington Park and establishes a basis for monitoring change in exotic and native plant diversity in response to recreational use and a changing climate. The Trust thanks Dr Barros and the people who have cared for and supported the ecology of Wellington Park, in small ways and large. Research such as this shows that these efforts can make a difference.

Owing to resource constraints, researchers have only been able to analyse data collected for exotic species. Data that was also collected for native species has not yet been analysed, and the Trust has applied for an Australian Biodiversity Data Mobilisation Program grant through the CSIRO Atlas of Living Australia to enable this.

Illegal Mountain Bike track cutting

The Trust has observed a significant increase in illegal mountain bike track cutting during 2025-26, with seven sections of illegally marked and cut mountain bike track detected within the Park. In response, the Trust Rangers have been engaged in a concerted surveillance and education program, supported by compliance and enforcement where necessary.

As the designated Park Management Agency and landowner of that section of Wellington Park where illegal track building is occurring, the City of Hobart has had to reinstate its register of illegal tracks to coordinate the significant restoration and monitoring required to address this illegal activity.

Of the seven illegal tracks identified to date, four have been treated with closure works, costing the City of Hobart 94 labour hours, two remain under surveillance and an appropriate response is still being determined for the most recent identification. The style of track cutting observed indicates that the offenders are from the gravity/freeride cohort. Three of the identified tracks are suspected to have been cut by multiple offenders based on the speed of construction and the detection of tools at multiple locations along the tracks.

The increase in illegal mountain bike track cutting has drawn a sharp rebuke from responsible riders active in Wellington Park, as well other Park users and land managers. The formal network of mountain bike trails in Wellington Park has been carefully considered, constructed and maintained in consideration of the full suite of natural and cultural values for which Wellington Park was set aside as a reserve. If current treatments are unsuccessful in halting illegal track construction, a broader review of mountain bike activity in Wellington Park may be warranted.

447,220 visitors entered
the Pinnacle Observation Shelter
on Kunanyi / Mount Wellington in 2025-26,
down from 488,986 in 2024-25.



Pinnacle Road Traffic Data

The City of Hobart has been collecting road traffic data from lower Pinnacle Road since 2014. Half of the 20 busiest days recorded during this 12-year period occurred during 2025-26. This included a new record for the busiest day when 1,906 vehicles entered Wellington Park on 6 September 2025 following heavy snowfall, exceeding the previous record of 1,871 vehicles following heavy snowfall on 26 September 2021.

The summer months are peak traffic months on Pinnacle Road. However, the number of vehicles entering the Park during summer has declined over the last three years, from 70,217 vehicles in 23-24, to 65,336 vehicles in the summer of 25-26. Annual vehicle entry figures have also declined, with 197,935 vehicles entering Wellington Park via Pinnacle Road during 2025-2026, down from 219,492 in 24-25.

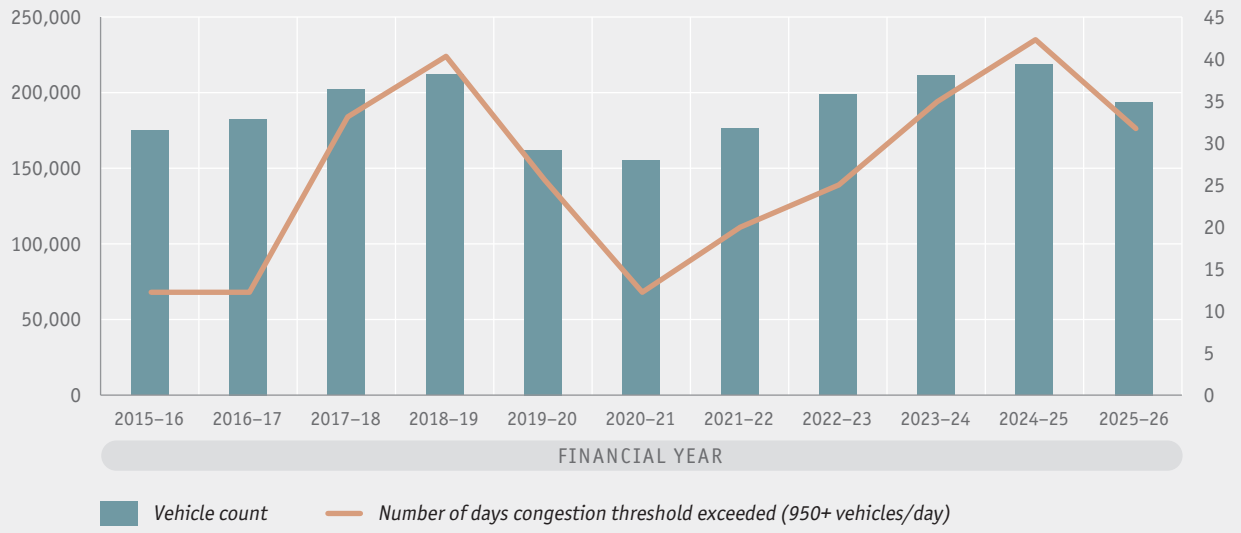
The busiest month on Pinnacle Rd is January, with an average of 907 vehicles entering the Park every day in Jan 2025, exceeding the congestion threshold on 14 of 31 days. In the 25–26 summer holiday period (25 Dec –10 Jan), the congestion threshold was exceeded on 12 of 17 days.

The contrast between overall declining vehicle entries and the congestion indicated by 10 of the 20 busiest days on the road occurring in 25-26 paints an interesting picture. There are clearly seasonal and event-based peak vehicle visitation periods over holidays and events such as snow and Disappearing Tarn days, however vehicle pressure outside of these times is decreasing at such a rate that annual vehicle entry figures are declining. The management implication is that targeted traffic management responses during identified peak days can have a significant impact in improving the overall visitor experience in Wellington Park.

Following a significant congestion event at The Springs in July 2025, the Trust has been working with the City of Hobart to improve the congestion management measures on Pinnacle Rd during road closures and events. The Trust has deployed Rangers to assist with the implementation of Council's proactive traffic management plans enacted in advance of expected congestion events, participated in joint media campaigns with Council and emergency services promoting the importance of maintaining emergency vehicle access during peak periods, and is supportive of Council's renewed parking compliance activities to maintain safe road corridors.

***During 25-26, Pinnacle Rd** was closed all day above The Springs due to snow and ice on 13 days, and above Bracken Lane on just 1 day.*

Pinnacle Road Vehicle Count and Congestion Days



When Pinnacle Rd is closed at The Springs for all or part of the day due to snow, congestion occurs at a much lower vehicle count and this is not reflected in this data.

Wellington Falls Track entered on Tasmanian Heritage Register

In June 2026, the Trust was advised that Wellington Falls Track, inclusive of Milles Track, has been permanently entered into the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

The Track is the earliest known example of a walking track constructed for recreation and tourism in Tasmania and has been in continual use for 180 years. Today, the Track provides access to both Wellington Falls and the Disappearing Tarn. Also significant, the Wellington Falls Track is a rare example of a publicly used track funded entirely by public subscription.

The Trust made the Wellington Falls Track heritage nomination alongside nominations for the Exhibition Gardens at The Springs, and the Fingerpost Track. The Exhibition Gardens was deemed to not meet State significance criteria, and the Fingerpost Track has not yet been assessed.

Fire Management

Although there were no bushfires in Wellington Park in 2025-26, an uncontrolled 'Watch and Act' level bushfire at Glen Dhu Rd, Molesworth travelling in the direction of Collinsvale and Wellington Park was reported on 21 February 2026. The risk posed by the fire was such that Wellington Park was closed on the afternoon of 21 February. The fire was contained by authorities overnight and Wellington Park reopened at 9am on 22 February.

General fire management activities are carried out by Park Management Agencies and the Tasmanian Fire Service under permit from the Trust.

Three new fuel reduction burn permits were issued in 2025-26. Two burns were conducted. The City of Hobart conducted a 12ha burn at Brushy Hill, and the Tasmanian Fire Service conducted a 9 ha burn above Tolosa Park in Wellington Park.

The third permit issued was for a proposed fuel reduction burn in the significant new burn unit in the Humphreys Rivulet catchment.

The Trust has been working with the Tasmanian Fire Service, the City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council to plan for the Humphreys Rivulet burn, which was proposed for Autumn 2026. However, appropriate conditions did not eventuate and the burn has been deferred to next Autumn, noting that it is unsuitable for a Spring burn.

The Humphreys Rivulet burn is significant because of its scale and proximity to an urban area. When conducted, the burn will be highly visible across Greater Hobart. The Trust participated alongside the Tasmanian Fire Service and the two councils in a community drop-in information session held at Tolosa Park on 26 April 2026. The Tasmanian Fire Service will lead further communications should the burn be possible in 2027.



Events

A number of events were conducted in Wellington Park during 2025-26, including:

- Landscape Architects Festival bat tour and stargazing (Australian Institute of Landscape Architects)
- Arc'teryx Running Clinics (Arc'teryx)
- City of Hobart's Clean Up Kunanyi Day (City of Hobart)
- Perspectives of the Stars: From History to the Future (Dept of State Growth)
- Kunanyi Mountain Run (Trail Ventures Pty Ltd)
- Kunanyi Challenge 2026 cycling time trial (Hobart Wheelers Dirt Devils)
- Wurangkili Liwari Nipaluna astronomy and stargazing (Beaker St Festival)
- Point to Pinnacle marathon on Pinnacle Rd (Pinnacle Challenge Events)
- Unique Tassie Experiences – Cathedral Rock Guided Walk (Tasmanian University Students Association)
- Tas Gravity Enduro Series Glenorchy MTB event (Tas Gravity Enduro)
- Kunanyi/Mt Wellington Bushfire Risk Management Field Trip (8th International Fire Behaviour and Fuels Conference)
- Kunanyi Trail Series trail running events (Trail Ventures Pty Ltd)



Research activity 2025–26

Institution	Focus
EnviroDynamics	Seed collection of alpine eucalypts (E. urnigera, E. cordata) for storage in Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (RTBG).
Department of Natural Resources	Soil collection for contribution to High Soil Carbon Landscapes research project.
NRM South	Fauna research on critically endangered ammonite snails.
University of Melbourne	Flora collection for phylogenetic study of *Correa lawrenceana;* opportunistic bryophyte collection for herbarium submission.
James Cook University	Fauna collection and camera deployment to assess resource overlap between introduced bumblebees and native pollinators.
University of Rostock (Germany)	Long-term Anaspides collection program (ongoing since 2018; concluding Dec 2026).
TasTAFE	Herbarium specimen collection; seed collection for TasTAFE Future Seeds Program.
UTAS	Collection of native plant material for teaching collections and undergraduate field excursions.
	Alpine skink research across multiple alpine sites.
	Freshwater crayfish surveys using Whakaweku (artificial refuge traps from Pteridium esculentum); individuals measured and released for population health data.
	Deployment of passive acoustic recorders (CallTrackers) in repeated ~ 8 -day sampling periods to monitor bat and bird activity.
	Liverwort sampling to assess response to elevated vapour pressure deficit. Flora collection (Chalet area) to investigate adaptive plasticity for improving plant resilience.
UTAS – Tasmanian Herbarium Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Standing permit supporting >15 researchers collecting plant specimens for Tasmanian Herbarium and partner herbaria.
	Olearia spp. sampling for taxonomic study of *Olearia remulosa.*
	Plant collection supporting molecular phylogeny of Australian ferns and liverwort suborder Cephaloziinae.
TMAG	Collection of non-threatened invertebrate specimens for ongoing taxonomic research of Tasmanian invertebrates.
Citizen Science	Herbarium specimen collection supporting Tasmanian Herbarium and National Herbarium of Victoria.
EPA Tasmania	Installation of LoRa radio receiver for connection to regional network of air quality monitoring instruments.

Permits, Approvals And Licences

Permits

A permit is required for all use and development that is in contravention of the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019,* excluding routine maintenance or emergency works. This applies even if a use or development is exempt from requiring a LUPAA permit.

Permit applications may require the submission of a Park Activity Assessment (PAA) for review by the Trust.

Commonly issued permits include for track construction and maintenance, construction activities, erection of signage, scientific research, public events and recreational access provided for in the Management Plan.

No recreational 4WD permits have been issued for 2025-26 as Jefferys Track to the north and south of Wellington Park has been closed to the public where it crosses private land. Jefferys Track to the south was the designated exit route from Wellington Park for 4WD permit holders for one-way travel on the East West Trail. The Trust understands that discussions between the landholders and State and Local Government are continuing with a view to resolving access. The Trust is not a party to these discussions as the issues lie outside of Wellington Park.

The Trust approved the following Level 1 PAA within the Park during 2025-26:

- Replacement/removal of eleven pedestrian bridge/ boardwalks on the Lenah Valley Track, Shoobridge Track, Betts Vale Track and Fern Glade Track (City of Hobart)

All other agency activity has been conducted under the condition of five-year standing permits issued in May 2022. These allow routine, general maintenance to proceed without individual permits being sought.

Permits issued

Activity	*2025–26*	*2024–25*	*2023–24*
Maintenance and construction works including permanent signs	7	9	8
Planned burns	3	0	5
Scientific research/take flora or fauna	17	17	10
Recreational vehicle access	0	8	22
Non-recreational vehicle access	4	4	1
Horse riding	1	1	0
Camping	1	2	1
Placement of temporary signs	2	2	0
Restricted area access including restricted use tracks and trails	4	1	0
Events	12	12	5
Removal of object/feature of historical interest	0	0	0



Rocking Stone | Luke Tscharke

Approvals

The Trust issues approvals for commercial filming and photography in the Park, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft (drones).

Approvals issued			
Activity	***2025–26***	***2024–25***	***2023–24***
Commercial filming	18	34	14
Use of a remote piloted aircraft (drone)	3	12	9

Licences

Nature-based tourism and other commercial operators within or visiting Wellington Park require a Commercial Operator Licence under s 31 of the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.

Operators that conduct business in Wellington Park only obtain a Commercial Operators Licence from the Trust. At the end of 2025-26, there were four operators licensed directly by the Trust, each contributing an annual licence fee of $300.

For operators that also conduct business in other reserves, Wellington Park can be included on a broader, multi-reserve licence issued by the PWS under a 'one-stop-shop' arrangement. This arrangement covers land managed by PWS, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and the Trust.

As at May 2026, there are 137 operators licensed to access Wellington Park through the 'one-stop-shop' arrangement, each contributing an annual licence fee of $300 to the PWS. There is no disbursement of one-stop-shop licence fees to the Trust.

	As at May 2026	***As at May 2025***	***As at May 2024***	***As at May 2023***
No. of business licensed to conduct commercial operations in the Park	141	122	121	127

Regulations Awareness Program

The Trust's Education and Regulations Coordinator (ERC) leads the Regulations Awareness Program to maintain Park values. The ERC works with Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils, Tas Water, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Tasmania Police. This includes creating a network of Authorised Officers (AOs) who are trained to educate users about the Park's values and are empowered to enforce the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019.*

One officer ceased employment for a member agency in the 2025-26 financial year, with two new Authorised Officers being trained. The Park currently has 37 active Authorised Officers across the Trust and its member agencies.

Education and Awareness

The ERC and Ranger continue to develop innovative ways to educate visitors about the Park, its values and the Regulations that protect them. In a changing online and real world the Trust recognises the need to keep seeking new ways to connect users with information they need to safely and sustainably visit the Park, while also providing up-to-date and effective hard copy maps and on-ground signage.

The ERC carries out a range of activities to help the community understand and care for Park values:

- developing permanent, temporary, occasional and seasonal regulatory signage to support the delivery of key messages to visitors
- delivering field presentations about the Park's values to school and university groups
- posting information and alerts about trail status to pedestrian and cycling websites, apps and social media user groups
- preparing and disseminating regulatory and educational information to Park users including field staff, advocacy groups, user groups and clubs, tour operators and local businesses
- posting educative content on the Trust Facebook and Instagram pages
- regular interviews on local ABC radio
- attendance at community events
- responding to stakeholder requests for data and information about Park usage.

Community Feedback

Information and intelligence from the community helps the ERC to respond quickly and effectively to issues and offences and fosters trust and custodianship. The ERC responded to various reports, complaints, concerns and suggestions from local users and visitors.

During 2025-26, 39 issues have been logged by the community on the dedicated 'Report an Issue' webform on the WPMT website. These have included reports of fallen trees, cat sightings, motorbike activity and drone sightings. The ERC responds to all valid reports. Responses include:

- on ground awareness raising campaigns
- compliance monitoring on foot, electric mountain bike, and 4WD vehicle
- multi-agency compliance operations
- temporary or permanent signage
- website articles and social media posts
- radio interviews
- media releases
- data gathering via surveys, visitor counters and motion sensing trail cameras both overt and covert
- partnering with key online and mobile platforms to vet and improve trail information and provide authoritative content.

Enforcement and Compliance Activities

The ERC coordinated one multi-agency compliance operation in 2025-26. Scheduling of these operations is constrained by the availability of Police and PWS officers and particularly the Authorised Officers employed by Trust member agencies.

Technological innovations have made compliance monitoring more efficient, reducing the reliance on agency personnel. SMS-enabled motion sensor cameras provide early warning of unauthorised users such as motorbike riders, allowing operation participants to coordinate, prepare and manoeuvre more flexibly and effectively to address offences.

Drones have been used successfully to detect and identify unauthorised vehicle users and will continue to play an important part in compliance operations.

Ranger surveillance operations throughout the Park are conducted routinely in response to monitoring data and intelligence gathered from a range of sources, including member agency field staff, Authorized Officers, contractors, and the very large community of regular concerned Park users and neighbours.

The Trust benefits greatly from the continued support of many areas of Tasmania Police including Radio Despatch Services, Marine Search and Rescue, Uniform and Traffic. These officers play a vital role in organised joint operations, as well as contributing random mid-week patrols when available. The Park also benefits from the conduct of training within the Park by Tasmania Police Search and Rescue and wilderness paramedics.

Monitoring

Social media and fitness apps continue to be valuable tools for gaining information about Park use, as well as communicating with Park visitors. GPS apps synced with web-based platforms are increasingly being used by visitors to plan their activity before they visit, and to orient and find their way on ground. As more visitors take up these technologies, more data and intelligence become available to assist rangers with compliance planning and implementation: for instance the Strava fitness tracker online and mobile app shows an anonymized trace of where users have actually been, allowing rangers to see where informal or illegal mountain bike riding is occurring.

In 2025-26 the ERC conducted further analysis of data from fitness and mapping platforms and cross-referenced these with data from our in-field visitor counters to derive trend and change in usage around the Park's extensive network of tracks and fire trails. This analysis identified significant increases in access from historically lower-volume entrance points, leading to the decision to upgrade wayfinding and regulatory signage at these locations. Five large dual panel signs were installed along with maps highlighting suggested walks with gradings and distances, providing visitors with information to help make their visit safer and more enjoyable and reducing the risk of misadventure or injury requiring emergency services.

The ERC has established working relationships with key providers in this space to enhance the Park's visitor information and signage on-ground and online. As the userships of these platforms grow, these partnerships will increase the reach of authoritative information, improving the experience and especially safety of participating users.

The ERC has also cultivated partnerships with key user groups and individuals and is currently developing a communications plan to address the emerging threat of illegally cut mountain bike trails. By working with advocates and champions the Trust will be able to more effectively disseminate key regulatory and safety messages to target previously disengaged cohorts of users, such as gravity/free ride mountain bikers.

The Trust now owns three SMS-enabled trail cameras, which the ERC deploys around the Park in response to intelligence and information gathered from a range of sources. Council Bushland managers have also increased their fleets, and the ERC works in concert with agencies' field staff to cover target areas. As well as providing real-time images of offences, the cameras are simultaneously used to gather new information about trail usage and corroborate data from other monitoring sources including passive trail cameras and track counters. Together, these data inform planning and decision making for compliance as well as monitoring and maintenance of the recreational track and fire trail network and other assets.

Infringements of the Regulations

Due to limited personnel, most infringements are detected on motion sensor cameras and offenders cannot be identified. However these data are invaluable in providing insight into patterns of offending, which inform decision making about educative and regulatory campaigns and operations.

Offences detected			
Offence	***2025–26***	***2024–25***	***2023–24***
Mark out or cut track	7	1	0
Possess axe or saw	5	5	1
Dog related offences	21	31	20
Unauthorised vehicle use	84	75	115
Unauthorised mountain bike use	122	96	12
Unauthorised drone use	2	7	3
Contravene a sign	2	21	24
Fire related offences	2	2	5
Damage or vandalise a structure or sign	8	20	5
Total	**253**	**260**	**185**

Compliance action	***2025–26***	***2024–25***	***2023–24***
No contact / Unable to identify offender	92	67	31
Conditional Caution	4	3	4
Prescribed Infringement Notice	0	5	6
Trail camera detection	182	214	141
Total	**278**	**289**	**182**

Note: Compliance actions exceed offences detected because only the most frequent offences are included in the Offences Detected table.

Commercial use of photos and video captured within the Park without a permit

The ERC, Ranger and other Trust officers continue to detect instances of suspected commercial use of photos and video captured within the Park without a permit. Any unauthorised commercial use of photography and video captured with the Park has the potential to adversely affect natural, social, economic and cultural values, as seen in numerous other protected areas around the world in recent years; however these detections appear to have decreased over the last 12 months, suggesting that community awareness of the commercial filming guidelines has increased.

WHS Incidents

There have been no WHS incidents involving Trust staff that are notifiable under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*.

The Trust receives a brief situation report from Police Search and Rescue when they are called to respond to incidents in Wellington Park. The Trust does not receive data on Ambulance call-outs to the Park.

Further visitor incidents will have occurred during the year without reports being received by the Trust.

Summary of WHS hazard and incident reports

Incident/Hazard	*Number reported*		
	2025–26	*2024–25*	*2023–24*
Lost time injury	0	0	0
Hazards identified through incident/ near hit reports	0	0	0
Staff incidents reported	3	3	1
Visitor incidents reported	12	20	4
Contractor incidents reported	0	0	0



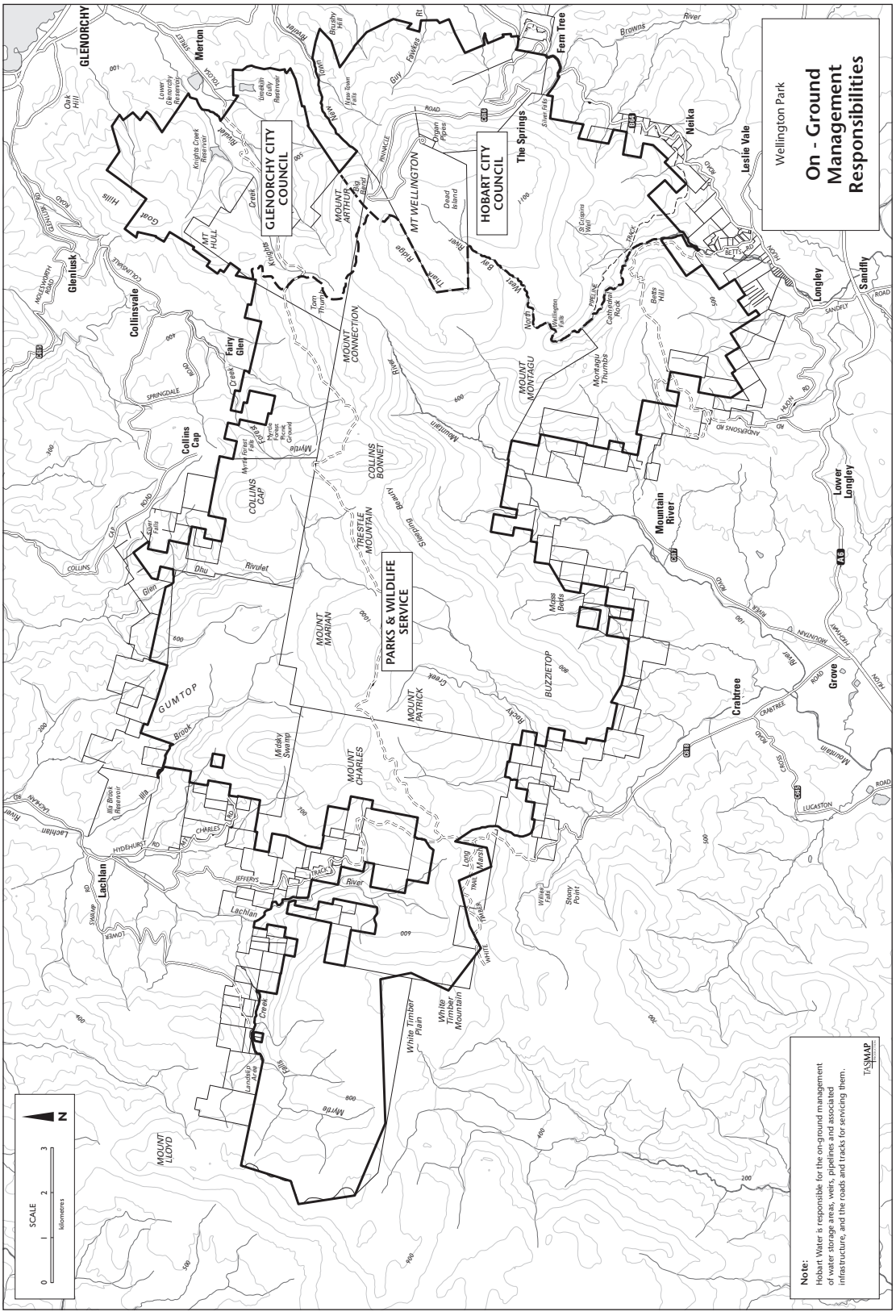
Organ Pipes | Pete Mellows



Tasmanian Waratah | Luke Tscharke

Appendix 1

Wellington Park – On Ground Management Areas



Appendix 2

Membership of the Wellington Park Management

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

MEMBER	DEPUTY
Chairperson Dr Christine Mucha	(Deputy not provided for in the Act)
Director-General of Lands Mr Stuart Fletcher, NRE	Mr Will Joscelyne, NRE *(from 08/09/25)*
Glenorchy City Council Cr Molly Kendall	Mr Emilio Reale
Hobart City Council Cr John Kelly *(until 31/12/25)* Mr Michael Stretton *(from 27/12/26)*	Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds *(until 31/12/25)* Cr Mike Dutta *(from 27/12/26)*
Cr Ben Lohberger	Cr Ryan Posselt *(until 31/12/25)* Ald Louise Bloomfield *(from 27/12/26)*
TasWater Ms Frances Smith	Mr Christian Attfield
Director of National Parks and Wildlife Ms Tory Ross	Ms Jennifer Parnell
Tourism Tasmania Ms Rita Warrener *(until 29/10/25)* Ms Aletta Macdonald *(from 04/05/26)*	Ms Edwina Morris

Notes: *Members and deputies may be appointed by the Minister for a period not exceeding 3 years. A member's appointment may terminate if they no longer occupy the position under which they were appointed or they resign. Members and deputies may be re-appointed. The term of the Chair has been extended by the Minister through to 13 February 2027 whilst the Government awaits the outcome of the Our Mountain's Future review.*

Wellington Park Office

General Manager (1 FTE)	Amy Russell
Educations & Regulations Coordinator (1 FTE)	Ben Masterman
Ranger (1 FTE)	Kaely Kreger
Wellington Park Project Officer (1 FTE)	Louise Jolly *(until 21/11/25)* Eva Thorsteinson *(from 17/02/26)*

***FTE** – Full time equivalent*

Appendix 3

Trust Meeting Attendance Record

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

The Trust held 5 scheduled meetings between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

MEMBER	*Meetings Attended During 2025–26*	*Meetings During Membership*
Chairperson		
Dr Christine Mucha	5	5
Director-General of Lands nominees		
Mr Stuart Fletcher	5	5
Mr Will Joscelyne (deputy)	0	5
Glenorchy City Council		
Cr Molly Kendall	4	5
Mr Emilio Reale (deputy)	0	5
Hobart City Council		
Cr John Kelly	2	3
LM Cr Anna Reynolds (deputy to Cr Kelly)	0	3
Mr Michael Stretton	2	2
Cr Mike Dutta (deputy to Mr Stretton)	0	2
Cr Ben Lohberger	4	5
Cr Ryan Posselt (deputy to Cr Lohberger)	0	3
Ald Louise Bloomfield (deputy to Cr Lohberger)	0	2
TasWater		
Ms Frances Smith	5	5
Mr Christian Attfield (deputy)	0	5
Director of National Parks and Wildlife nominees		
Ms Tory Ross	4	5
Ms Jennifer Parnell (deputy)	0	5
Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Tasmania nominees		
Ms Rita Warrener	2	2
Ms Aletta Macdonald	0	0
Ms Edwina Morris (deputy)	2	5

Clause 3 of Schedule 3 of the Act entitles members who are not State Service officers or employees to remuneration and allowances as determined by the Governor. These are specified in each member's Instrument of Appointment. During 2025-26 the Chairperson was paid an annual fee and councillors who are members or deputy members were paid a sitting fee for each meeting attended.

Disclosures of interests and related party interests

At the July 2025 meeting, Cr Ryan Posselt tabled a notice advising his Chair and coordination role for a new Kunanyi recreational trail user advocacy group seeking to influence the future of the mountain outside of government agencies and land managers. The Trust advised that its preference was for Cr Posselt to stand down from his Trust deputy member position unless he could demonstrate how conflicts of interest would be managed with the new role. The Trust also resolved to seek confirmation from the City of Hobart that Cr Posselt remained the Council's preferred nominee to the Trust position. Cr Posselt agreed to stand down from the Trust and did not participate in Trust business for the remainder of his appointment that ended in December 2025.

At the February 2026 meeting, Mr Michael Stretton advised that he had been appointed to the Board of Destination Southern Tasmania. This was noted by the Trust.

Appendix 4

Financial Report 2025–2026

Audit Tasmania

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Parliament

Wellington Park Management Trust

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement of certification signed by the Chairperson.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

(a) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended

(b) is in accordance with the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1

Responsibilities of Members of the Trust for the Financial Report

The Members of the Trust are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the *Wellington Park Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Members are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trust is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or Members intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Member's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the

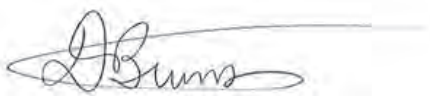
Appendix 4

Financial Report 2025–2026

date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Derek Burns
Assistant Auditor-General
Delegate of the Auditor-General

27 August 2026
Hobart

Statement of Comprehensive Income For Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
REVENUE			
Grants - State Government	5	390,000	487,000
Grants - Other	5	159,047	156,542
Grant - SIIRP		150,366	149,634
Interest		3,896	5,426
Fines		247	1,426
Contract Funding Recognised		21,630	9,640
Profit on Disposal of Assets		-	8,153
Donations		-	13,619
Other		9,892	14,021
Total Revenue		735,078	845,461
EXPENSES			
Park Administration			
Advertising		2,458	2,716
Audit Fees		10,000	8,000
Chairperson Remuneration	11	14,000	13,938
Contractors and Consultants		219,851	142,829
Depreciation		11,177	13,263
Employee Costs - Management		168,462	164,292
Employee Costs - Other		265,476	234,445
Workers Compensation Insurance		-	4,276
Loss on Disposal of Assets		1,433	-
Miscellaneous		29,548	25,562
Sitting Fees		1,500	1,950
Stationery & Printing		14,611	11,565
Vehicle Expenses		12,950	12,607
Total Expenses		751,466	635,443
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		**(16,388)**	**210,018**
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Comprehensive Result		**(16,388)**	**210,018**

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity For Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
Retained Earnings			
Balance at beginning of period		371,861	161,843
Comprehensive Result		(16,388)	210,018
Balance at end of period		**355,473**	**371,861**

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2026

	Note	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash	6	397,403	434,058
Stock on Hand		11,959	12,035
Receivables		9,402	20,806
		418,764	466,899
Non-Current			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		53,130	54,131
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(25,996)	(15,248)
		27,134	38,883
TOTAL ASSETS		**445,898**	**505,782**
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Employee Benefits	7	52,255	63,313
Payables		13,690	27,146
Contract Liabilities	6	18,661	40,291
		84,606	130,750
Non-Current			
Employee Benefits	7	5,819	3,171
		5,819	3,171
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**90,425**	**133,921**
NET ASSETS		**355,473**	**371,861**
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		355,473	371,861
TOTAL EQUITY		**355,473**	**371,861**

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Grants - State Government		390,000	487,000
Grants - Other		309,412	306,176
Interest		3,896	5,426
Other		21,544	19,011
		724,852	817,614
Payments			
Employee and Contracted Services Costs		691,155	540,609
Other		69,491	67,458
		760,646	608,067
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4	**(35,794)**	**209,547**
Proceeds from			
Sales of Plant and Equipment		-	26,664
		-	26,664
Payments for			
Equipment purchases		860	34,410
		860	34,410
NET CASH (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		**(860)**	**(7,746)**
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		**(36,655)**	**201,801**
Opening Cash Balance		434,058	232,257
Closing Cash Balance		**397,403**	**434,058**

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2026

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) is to deliver coordinated and effective management for Wellington Park to preserve the area's unique conservation and water catchment values while promoting appropriate tourism and recreation opportunities.

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Trust was established by the *Wellington Park Act 1993* as a Statutory Authority to facilitate and provide a cooperative land management structure for Wellington Park, one of the State's largest distinct areas of reserved land and a primary icon in terms of tourism.

The Park was proclaimed under specific legislation due to its complexities in land tenure and ownership. At present, Wellington Park comprises twelve separate parcels of land with classifications and ownership ranging from Crown land, freehold land (held by the two city councils of Hobart and Glenorchy) and land vested in the City of Hobart for water supply purposes. TasWater also has a statutory responsibility for bulk water supply to the Greater Hobart area and maintains infrastructure within the Park associated with this role. Electricity and telecommunications suppliers also maintain infrastructure within the Park associated with their role.

The Trust has resolved that it does not control either the constructed or natural assets within the Park and accordingly has not recognised a value for those assets in its financial report.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report and has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as the Australian Accounting Standards include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS.

The Trust has analysed its purpose, objectives, and operating philosophy and determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate, the Trust has elected to apply options and exemptions within Accounting Standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

The financial report has been prepared on the accrual basis under the convention of historical cost accounting and does not take into account changing money values. At the 30th June 2026, the Trust held cash assets of $397,403 which are insufficient to cover the operating expenses of the Trust for 2026-27. The Government has announced, through the 2026-27 State Budget, that the appropriations awarded to the Trust in 2026-27 will be $393,000 (2025-26: $390,000). This additional funding is designed to ensure the Trust is sustainably resourced to carry out its function as the managing authority of Wellington Park. As such, the Trust has prepared this report on a going concern basis.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

b) Revenue

The Trust recognises untied grant revenue and grants without performance obligations when received. In cases where funding includes specific performance obligations, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance with income recognised as obligations are fulfilled and which reflect the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration to which the Trust expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues. In 2025-26 Other Revenue consisted of sale of goods, fines, event permit application fees and commercial operator licence fees.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to either a decrease in an asset or an increase in a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

d) Cash

Cash consists of funds held in bank accounts and cash on hand.

e) Stock

Stock on hand at the reporting date comprise a number of publications which are held with an expectation of generating future sales. Stock is valued at cost and adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

f) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are valued at cost and consist of a vehicle as well as office equipment. The vehicle has been estimated to have a useful life of seven and a half years in line with the Australian Taxation Office Commissioner's cap for vehicles of this type and the office equipment a useful life of three years. The estimated residual value of plant and equipment at the end of its useful life is reviewed annually. Useful lives are reviewed annually and depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.

g) Employee Benefits

The provision for employee benefits represents the amount which the Trust has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees' services provided up to the reporting date in respect of salaries, annual leave and long service leave.

Provisions made in respect of employee benefits which fall due wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees rendered the related service, are measured at their nominal values using remuneration rates expected to apply at the time of settlement. Other provisions are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Discount rates used are those attaching to national government guaranteed securities at balance date which most closely match the terms to maturity of the related liabilities. In determining pre-conditional long service leave entitlements,

the amount of cash outflows required to be made by the Trust in the future have been estimated based on experience of similar not for profit entity trends.

Under current employment contracts there is no entitlement to payment of unused personal leave upon termination and so no provision has been made in this regard.

h) Comparative Figures

Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

i) Taxation

The Trust is subject to both Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). No FBT events were experienced by the Trust in the year. The Trust's current payroll is below the annual threshold for Payroll Tax liability and is exempt from all other taxes.

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

j) Change in Accounting Policies

There are no new and revised Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board which are relevant to the Trust's operations and effective for the current reporting period.

k) New accounting standards for application in future periods

In the current year, Management has reviewed and assessed all the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and determined that none would have a material effect on the Trust's operations or financial reporting.

4. RECONCILIATION OF 'NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES' TO SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
Surplus / (Deficit)	**(16,388)**	**210,018**
Add back Depreciation	11,177	13,263
Less: Gain on Sale of Asset	1,433	(8,153)
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	11,480	(9,870)
Increase / (Decrease) in Employee Benefits	(8,410)	(8,488)
Increase / (Decrease) in Payables	(13,457)	22,417
Increase / (Decrease) in Contract Liabilities	(21,629)	(9,640)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	**(35,794)**	**209,547**

In 2025/26 the Trust has recorded a deficit primarily due to an decrease in the amount of grant funding received. In accordance with AASB 15, recognition of revenue associated with $18,661 of grant funds received and unexpended in 2025/26 has been deferred. The funds will be progressively recorded as revenue as grant conditions are met.

5. GRANT REVENUE

	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
Grants - State Government		
Park Administration	390,000	487,000
Grants - Other		
Grants - Other	159,047	156,542

The Grants – Other figure of $159,047 includes the following contributions: $40,632 from the Hobart City Council, $41,401 from the Glenorchy City Council, and $77,014 from TasWater. These figures and those in the above table are exclusive of applicable GST.

6. CASH

The Trust has received a number of grants. At 30 June 2026, the Trust is expected to expend $60,745 of its cash balance relating to these grants. These amounts being made up of:

	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
Restricted Cash		
Contract Liabilities (Unspent Funding)		
Urban Renewal & Heritage Fund	8,965	15,595
State Emergency Service	670	15,670
Jefferys Track	9,026	9,026
	18,661	40,291
Unconditional Grants		
Website Development	19,172	19,172
	19,172	19,172
Unrestricted Cash	**359,570**	374,595
Total Cash	**397,403**	**434,058**

Recognition of $8,965 grant income received in prior years for the Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund, $9,026 received from Huon Valley Council in 2020/21 for maintenance of Jefferys Track, $670 and received from State Emergency Service has been deferred until grant conditions are met, as per AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers.*

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROVISIONS

	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
PAYG Withholdings	7,366	25,190
Annual Leave	13,617	10,057
Long Service Leave	22,856	17,880
Superannuation	14,235	13,357
	58,074	66,484
Current	52,255	63,313
Non-Current	5,819	3,171
	58,074	66,484

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Risk Management
The Trust's financial instruments consist of cash, receivables and payables. Financial risk is managed by ensuring that investments are carried out in accordance with the Trust's Investment Policy Statement.

Credit Risk
Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Trust if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount of recognised financial assets as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position. The Trust does not have any material credit riskexposure.

Market Risk
Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the Trust is exposed to is interest rate risk. The Trust's cash held is subject to variable interest rates. Remaining financial assets and all financial liabilities are non-interest bearing. The Trust's exposure to interest rate risk in relation to cash held at bank is considered to be minimal.

Liquidity Risk
Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Trust manages liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows. Exposure to liquidity risk is considered to be minimal.

Net Fair Value
The Trust considers that the carrying amount of its financial assets and liabilities approximate their fair value.

9. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

No events have occurred subsequent to balance date that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial report.

10. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

There were no material contingent assets or contingent liabilities at year-end.

11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

a) Responsible Persons

Names of persons holding positions of responsibility at any time during the year are:

Trust Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Dr Christine Mucha		Independent Chair	01-Jun-05	13-Feb-27
Mr Stuart Fletcher	NRE	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-28
Cr Molly Kendall	GCC	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-26
Cr Ben Lohberger	CoH	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-28
Cr John Kelly	CoH	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Mr Michael Stretton	CoH	Member	22-Jan 26	31-Dec-28
Ms Frances Smith	TasWater	Member	30-Apr-20	31-Dec-28
Ms Tory Ross	PWS	Member	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-28
Ms Rita Warrener	Tourism Tas	Member Member	07-Sep-17	29-Oct-25
Ms Aletta Macdonald	Tourism Tas	Member	04-May-26	31-Mar-29

Trust Deputy Members	Organisation	Title	Appointment	Expiry
Mr Will Joscelyne	NRE	Deputy	01-Sep-25	07-Sep-28
Mr Emilio Reale	GCC	Deputy	01-Sep-21	30-Jun-27
Mr Christian Attfield	TasWater	Deputy	21-Aug-22	07-Sep-28
Ms Jennifer Parnell	PWS	Deputy	24-Jun-24	31-Dec-26
Ms Edwina Morris	Tourism Tas	Deputy	24-May-23	30-Jun-26
Cr Ryan Posselt	CoH	Deputy (BL)	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds	CoH	Deputy (JK)	31-Mar-23	31-Dec-25
Cr Mike Dutta	Co	Deputy (MS)	27-Jan-26	31-Dec-28
Ald Louise Bloomfield	CoH	Deputy (BL)	27-Jan-26	31-Dec-28

Trust General Manager: Amy Russell	09 May 2022 – Current

b) Key Management Personnel Compensation

	2025/26 $	2024/25 $
Short-term employee benefits	150,412	147,329
Post-employment benefits	18,050	16,963
Chairperson Remuneration	14,000	13,938
Sitting fees	1,500	1,950
	183,962	**180,180**

Short-term employee benefits represent wage-related benefits paid, payable or provided by the Trust to the General Manager while in the employ of the Trust. Post-employment benefits include superannuation paid or payable by the Trust for the General Manager while in the employ of the Trust. Amounts are calculated on an accruals basis.

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

a) Transactions with other related parties
There have been no transactions with related parties during the 2025-26 financial year.

b) Loans and guarantees to/from related parties
The Trust has not entered into any loans or guarantees with related parties.

c) Commitments to/from related parties
The Trust has not entered into any commitments with related parties.

d) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed
Most of the entities and people that are related parties of the Trust live within greater Hobart. Therefore, on a regular basis, ordinary citizen transactions occur between the Trust and its related parties. Some examples are:-

- Permit Application Fees
- Licence fees
- Fines for breaches of Wellington Park Regulations

The Trust has not included these types of transactions in its disclosure where they occur on the same terms and conditions as those available to the general public.

The Trust has made full disclosure in the financial report of information concerning related party transactions in accordance with the Applicable Australian Accounting Standards and/or legislative requirements.

Certification

The accompanying financial statements of the Wellington Park Management Trust are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

I believe that, in all material respects, the financial statements present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Dr Christine Mucha
Chairperson
Date: 26 August 2026

Vision

For Wellington Park to be a special place, accessible and enjoyed by all for its prominent landscape, natural and cultural diversity, and community value.

Mission

To preserve the natural, cultural, recreational, tourism and drinking water qualities of Wellington Park for their own value and for the safe enjoyment of all people.

This will be achieved through outstanding management, sympathetic development and a co-operative relationship with our communities.

Cover photography by Ben Masterman and Friends of Wellington Park.
Rangers Ben and Kaely working at South Wellington, Pakana Rangers working in Wellington Park, Friends of Wellington Park working bee with Glenorchy City Council.

Wellington Park
Management Trust

www.wellingtonpark.org.au